

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Wednesday, February 28, 2001

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAN MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ed Schreiber, Brookhaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Father of all, from the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, we offer this prayer of praise and thanks; also our intercessory prayer for our leaders in education, religion, government, and industry throughout the world.

We implore Thy blessings upon our President, a true statesman, George W. Bush, his family, and members of his administration. Likewise, Heavenly Father, bestow Thy abundant blessings on the Members of the 107th Congress.

We ask Your divine blessing on our children, our greatest treasure, and our older people. In a broken and fearful world, give us courage to pray and to act with integrity for the well-being of all Thy creation. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PENCE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

REVEREND ED SCHREIBER

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Reverend Ed Schreiber and thank him for delivering our opening prayer this morning. At 96 years of age, Pastor Schreiber recently became the oldest person ever to graduate from Memphis Theological Seminary.

Although Reverend Schreiber is not from my congressional district, I read about him in the Winchester Star, a newspaper from my district, and I was extremely impressed by his courage and determination of this man to seek a seminary degree in his 90s.

Reverend Schreiber spent his childhood in Augusta, Georgia, and his adult life in Nashville where he worked as a schoolteacher and as municipal planner. After more than 20 years into his retirement and after a painful death of his wife in 1991, Reverend Schreiber felt called to pursue a seminary degree.

He began his studies at the age of 92 and did not let much of anything slow him down. The Reverend was ordained as a pastor in the Cumberland Presbyterian denomination last June. He is also the chaplain of the Prime Timers, an active senior citizen group based out of his own church, Brookhaven Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

He attributes love for living, friends, a sense of purpose, a sense of humor, faith in God for his continuing energy. He believes that now, at his age of 96, at 96, he is being called to be a more credible witness for God. His tenacity and heeding to a calling is, quite frankly, I think, an inspiration to us all.

I welcome him to the Chamber today.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT WILLIAM WARD

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Hoosier hero who may have been overlooked in all of the media coverage about last week's capture of two fugitive teenagers suspected of murdering a family in New Hampshire.

I take this opportunity because doing excellent police work happens when no one is looking. "Sheriff Avoids Tragedy" is seldom a headline and "Captured Without Incident" does not have the same made-for-TV angle that most producers look for, but it is exactly the kind of admirable police work that characterizes Henry County Sheriff Sergeant William Ward.

Sergeant Ward was monitoring the citizens band radio and overheard a trucker on Interstate 70 trying to find a ride for two teenaged boys headed for California. Ward knew about the national search underway from two accused killers of New England.

Using judgment honed by more than 22 years of service, Sergeant Ward showed just how Indiana and our country are served by these tremendous work-a-day heroes.

Sergeant Ward and his wife, Candy, together have four children, Sara, Paul, Thad, and Matthew. I know that his family and all of us in East Central Indiana are proud of his excellent service record. Today, we pause to call special attention to his actions last week. This is important because it is one small part of a career of excellent service.

BUDGET PRIORITIES

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as President Bush said last night, "We will be judged not by what we say or how we say it, but by what we are able to accomplish."

But despite the President's best assumptions and intentions, here is what his tax plan would actually accomplish: raiding the Medicare Trust Fund, shortchanging education, defense and prescription drugs, and leaving America still with a trillion dollar debt. That is like squandering your kids' college savings on a personal vacation. It is not responsible, and it is just plain wrong.

The truth is, beneath President Bush's skilled sales pitch, his fuzzy math, that just does not add up. His tax plan is not fiscally responsible and shortchanges middle-class working families.

Democrats are committed to an honest, fair and fiscally responsible budget that includes all of America's priorities, from education and defense to health care and tax relief for all taxpayers.